



# Fifty-Cent Macro Lens

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## TOOLS:

- [Tape \(1\)](#)



## PARTS:

- [Reading glasses \(1.25 to 2.0 diopter from the dollar store\) \(1\)](#)

## SUMMARY

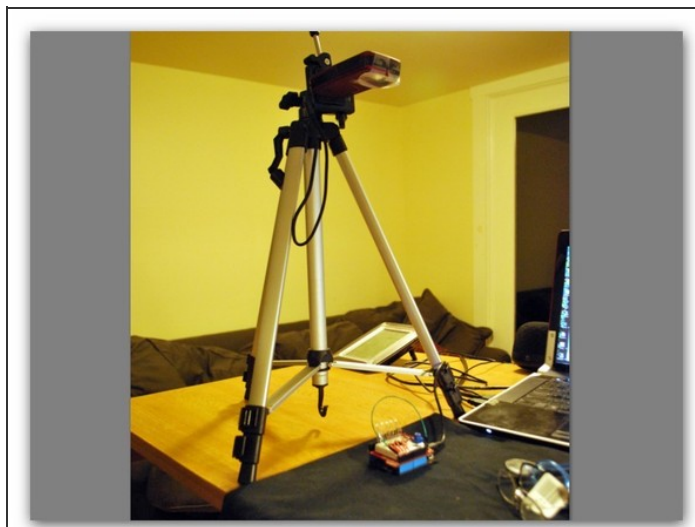
I wanted to contribute video in Make: Projects, but it turned out that none of the cameras I had in the house were of sufficient quality to do the job.

The camera I had hoped to use was a Kodak Zx1, which I picked up for \$45. It shoots 720p HD, which is perfect for web demo videos.

The problem was that the minimum focal range of the camera was 100cm -- a full meter! Certainly not close enough to show the simple circuits I was trying to display.

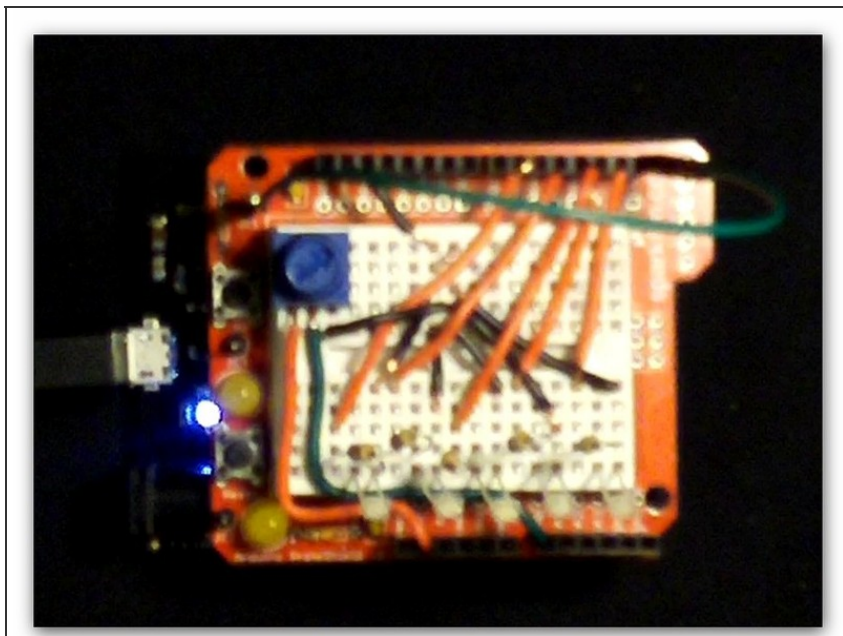
So - I was shopping for a better camera when my wife said "Why don't you do this?" And here are the results.

## Step 1 — Fifty-Cent Macro Lens



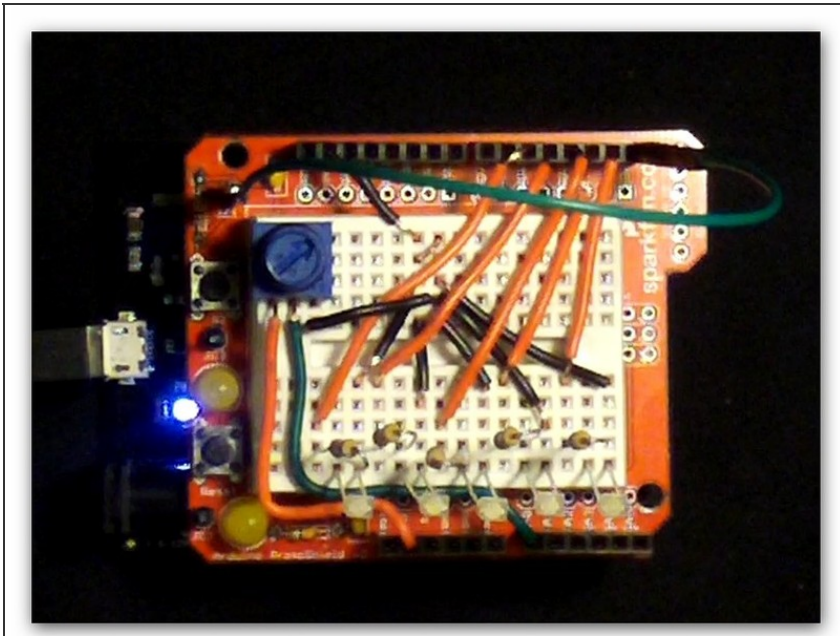
- Go to the dollar store and buy some reading glasses. I tried diopters of 1.25, 1.5, 1.75, and 2.0. The 2.0 worked best for my camera.
- Pop a lens out of the glasses.
- Tape it to the camera.
- Enjoy making close-up video!

## Step 2



- Not really a step, but this is the video quality before modification (camera is 18 inches from subject).

### Step 3



- Here's the video quality after modification.

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